

western cape scouter



September 2023



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Lekgotla 2023 kick off! Open dialogues, strategy evaluation, goal development, and sharing the passion for Scouting.

Acknowledgment
Scouts South Africa
Facebook page

editor's desk

A highlight in this edition of the Western Cape Scouter is reporting on the World Scout Jamboree - it was thoroughly enjoyed by the Scouts despite what you may have read in the media so make sure you read the article.



This is a reminder that should you have an interesting story, be it from your Den, Pack, Troop, Crew, District, Region or other, please send a short article to me, preferably with photographs. Please do not embed photos in Word documents (they usually get compressed and resolution is lost). Text in the body of an email with photos attached is the best method for me to receive potential articles. WhatsApp and web links are also fine.

Once again, thank-you to all the contributors.

Nigel Forshaw - Editor Western Cape Scouter

regional commissioner's reflections

The past 6 months have flown by and the focus has not changed much from what I had planned to do in my first 100 days in office. We have made great strides in the growth plan for the Region, but so much more is needed.



I am currently at the Lekgotla in Durban and we came through a day of robust discussions and debates around growth. All Regions have their shoulder to the wheel, and we've taken away good lessons from our deliberations. All are committed to align to the National growth strategy. All of us have absolute clarity regarding governance and ensuring the Safety of our youth. The National directive from the Chief Scout was clearly spelled out to us – if an Adult Leader does not have his/her police clearance and AAM form and is not registered on Scouts.Digital, they are not members of Scouts SA. We have been driving this in the Western

Cape and I am glad to see the National stance on the matter.

We have seen phenomenal growth in Mitchells Plain, with several promises in other Districts. I say promises, because we can only really count the growth when these Groups register with HQ. I would like to thank the DCs for the hard work done in this regard.

A long overdue and very encouraging addition will find its way onto the Star Awards collection. District Star Awards will soon join the collection. I'm sure that you will keep the competition healthy and honest.

We have a very busy year planner, and I must thank the RTCs for ensuring that they deliver against the plan – all the way from Meerkats, through to Adult Leader Training. We have had a great Gordon's Shield – although we were holding our breath for the weather and impact on the roads, but all worked out well. The cubs are planning a National event in the Western Cape next year, so let's throw our weight behind them and welcome the rest of the country to our wonderful Region. Pow Wow takes place in August 2024, so the team will be very busy with all plans and logistics to ensure that it's a success. We wish them well.

Our Springbok scouts will be hosted by the RTC Scouts when they have their Springbok dinner later this month. The achievement of this award is a milestone in the life of a scout. As we celebrate this achievement, I wish to remind them that this is but the beginning. Whether you stay on as an adult leader or not, your life ahead should be a living example of the Promise and Law. You are unofficially an ambassador for Scouts SA and World Scouting.

The 2024-year planner will be released by 1 October 2023. Please ensure that you use this planning tool to effectively plan and optimise all opportunities ahead of you. We have revisited this planner, so expect some changes from what you have seen over the past years. With the Regional dates set, my expectation is that District planning sessions will soon take place, allowing Groups ample time to hold their Annual Planning Conferences. Carefully plot the courses that your scouts and adult leaders should attend. You should be well placed to advise parents for the year

ahead, which should assist them in budgeting for what lies ahead.

Sitting around the table with the other Regional Commissioners, I am so proud of all the hard work done by the RTCs and their teams as well as the DCs in the Western Cape. These members are your support team and our job is to support your operations to the best of our ability to ensure success in your groups. Please reach out to my team so that we can continue on our road to success. What goes hand-in-hand with this is acknowledging and rewarding individuals who are doing a great or sterling job. We do too little of this and I am imploring SGLs and DCs to take note of what their unit leaders and their assistants are doing and to recommend them for awards. I would like to see many more adult leaders receiving awards in 2024.

Tomorrow we will witness and celebrate the inauguration of the Chief Scout of South Africa – Khonzapi Mdaka. We were addressed by him last night and what was clear is that he was a leader with vision and that he has no time for excuses. Deliver on the strategy or pass the baton on to someone to deliver if you can't – its as simple as that. We wish him strength and success as he leads us over the next few years.

On behalf of the Region, we wish the matriculants of 2023 all the very best as they embark on their matric exams. Do your best – you are a scout after all! I would also like to extend those best wishes to all our cubs and scouts (hopefully Meerkats do not do exams) as they enter the final term and final exam for the year.

Nimmy Abrahams - Regional Commissioner

beaver rose trophy



After a small delay the 2023 Beaver Rose competition took place in July this year. Twenty three patrols from the Two Ocean district descended upon the Rotary campsite in Glencairn on a sunny Saturday morning. The theme for the 58th edition of the competition

was Medieval, and each patrol had been instructed to create a flag for parade.

Cars soon began arriving with eager scouts and the patrols were divided amongst the camping areas where they unloaded all their equipment. There was a worry that it would be a rainy weekend, but the weather ended up being perfect for the competition. Eventually the time had come for the start and all the patrols marched to the parade ground with their flags held out proudly. The chief judge Gwylum Norton (of the district Iron Wood Rover crew) opened proceedings and announced the competition open, unleashing the patrols upon the campsites, causing tents and fenced areas to begin rising like little villages.

This year's competition was designed to be less fast paced and instead gave time to the patrols to really work on their campsites. The first base to open was for the juniors where they needed to demonstrate the classic six basic scout knots followed by the patrol seconds, showing that they had a neatly folded and cleaned scarf. Back at the campsites amongst the chaotic constructions each patrol needed to start their first STA (spare time activity). They were required to map out the entire area being used by the competition and the judges started witnessing junior scouts scurrying around doing location reconnaissance. A



second STA also needed to be completed in the form of a functioning model catapult which would come into play during the night bases.

It wasn't long before supper preparation commenced and judges visited each campsite, checking that their fireplace safety standards were in order. Once the patrols were ready, they sent junior scouts to HQ, inviting a pair of judges to come and join them for dinner. Each patrol was marked on their starter, main course, and dessert as well as the theme design. On returning to HQ the judges had high praise for the food that was presented (with some impressive demonstrations of vegetarian dishes).



It was finally time for the night bases to commence as all the patrols arrived at HQ brandishing staves, torches, and warm



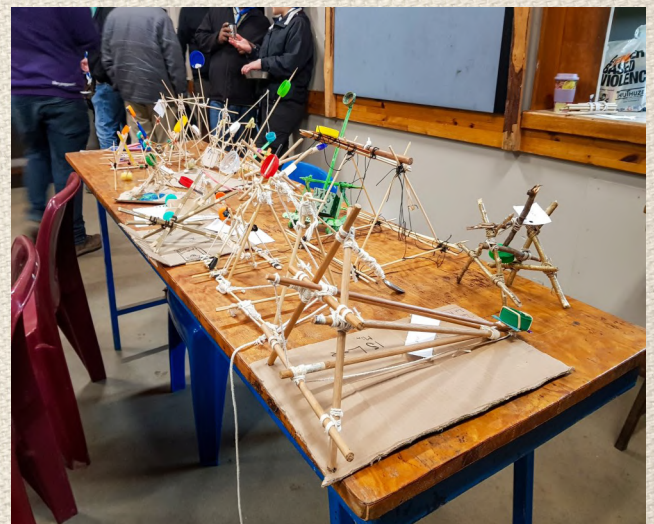
clothing. There were five bases in total they needed to complete: creating a war cry, how far can their STA model catapult fire a stone, a kim's game, a bedtime story skit, and jousting where scouts had to knock each other off their 'horse'. Afterwards they had a bit of time to work on their campsites before lights went out at 11pm.

Dawn broke early as hammering echoed through the campsites and the sounds of gas stove igniting alerted the judges to the breakfasts being prepared. Once again, the junior scouts journeyed to HQ to fetch judges to taste their sweet and savoury creations. Soon after it was time for the final judging of the campsites. The patrols lined up outside their campsites in uniform and teams of judges inspected their constructions, layout, fire safety, and cleanliness with feedback of their findings to the patrol leader. This left one base and STA outstanding. Each patrol rushed to get their model castles with functioning drawbridge to HQ before the patrol leader and second reported to the main field. The final base was a first aid incident involving a simulated jousting accident where the patrol leader had been impaled and needed medical attention (They needed to find a nice big stick to act as the broken lance). They were given extra points for being dramatic which created some Oscar award winning death scenes.

As the final flag was lowered on the competition, the top 10 patrols were:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. 2nd Bergvliet Kestrels | 6. 1st Meadowridge Eagles |
| 2. 1st Bergvliet Swifts | 7. 1st Bergvliet Minions |
| 3. 1st Bergvliet Seagulls | 8. 1st Muizenberg Super Seals |
| 4. 2nd Hout Bay | 9. 1st Bergvliet Kestrels |
| 5. 2nd Fish Hoek Stacked Patrol | 10. 1st Muizenberg Battle Pigeons |

The Richard Storey Memorial cooking trophy combines the points of the patrol's dinner and breakfast, and this year it was won by last year's runners up, 1st Meadowridge Eagles.



Well done to everyone who participated and made this such an enjoyable event. The standard was very high, and we had an amazing turnout.

A big thank you to all the judges who assisted throughout the competition, with a special thanks to:

- Rotary for letting us use the wonderful venue.
- Gwylum Norton for being the Chief Judge.
- The Iron Wood Rover crew for planning and running the event again.
- Andrew Klazinga for doing photography and creating the video.
- Our District Commissioner Conrad Thomas who organised the venue, the judge's catering and provided valuable assistance before and during the competition.



If you wish to watch the video of the event you can find it here:

<https://youtu.be/OqTyYaM0zyI>

By Andrew Klazinga – Iron Wood Rover Scouter



world scout jamboree 2023

An Opportunity to Smile and Whistle



One hundred and eight South African scouts were fortunate to join 43000 other scouts from 158 countries at the 25th World Scout Jamboree in South Korea during August 2023.

On our arrival in Korea, we were hosted at

the Korean Scouting Training Centre for a two day long Shakedown Camp. The South African scouts came from different parts of our country, so the shakedown camp was an opportunity for them to get to know each other and to build effective patrols and troops. The contingent was split into 3 troops, named after African musical instruments: Djembe (drum), Mbira (thumb piano) and Ramkie (guitar). Each troop comprised 4 patrols of 9 scouts..

Prior to our 4 night stay in the capital Seoul, we visited the demilitarized zone at the border with North Korea. This was an opportunity to learn about the Korean War (1950 to 1953). We spent a day visiting a Korean Folk Village and Hwaseong Fortress where we had a chance to test



our archery skills. The following day, scouts split into patrols and decided which Seoul sites they wanted to visit. Popular choices were the Aquarium, Illusion Museum, Gangnam Style monument, Raccoon Cafe and Seoul Tower. The contingent spent the last day in Seoul at the Lotte Amusement Centre. En route to the Jamboree site we overnighted at Gongju Hanok Village and visited various historical sites and tombs in the area.

Then the big day dawned and we arrived at the Jamboree site. SaeManGeum (meaning: a new and brilliant land) is an estuarine tidal flat on the coast of the Yellow Sea and is reclaimed land measuring 6.2 km by 1.7 km. Prior to our arrival there had been torrential rain at the site, making conditions underfoot yielding at best and ankle deep water in the worst places. This meant a new experience for most of us, tents needed to be pitched on pallets. Troops busied themselves with campsite construction: kitchen and washing up facilities, gateway and flagpole.

Walking to the Opening Ceremony was a highlight, spirited South Africans proudly singing and blowing vuvuzelas. Naturally we all went crazy when South Africa was introduced during the opening. Another highlight was the epic drone show that formed part of the opening.



With the Jamboree properly underway, we were dealt another curveball. Daily temperatures approaching 40 degrees coupled with very high humidity resulted in many participants having to be treated for heatstroke. Daily Jamboree activities were cancelled as a result of the heat.



Unfortunately the jamboree site did not have any natural shade, further aggravating the problem.

The cleaning and maintenance of the ablution facilities had not been properly planned. Toilets became a health hazard. This in addition to the extreme heat caused the UK, US and Singapore contingents to withdraw from the Jamboree. Following their departure, multiple remedial actions such as

air conditioned cooling buses and sevenfold more cleaning staff resulted in conditions improving dramatically.





On Cultural Day, we welcomed visitors to our campsite with Rooibos Tea, Rusks, Fizzers and Champion Toffees. They also had an opportunity to play the vuvuzela and Mbira. Despite Jamboree activities being curtailed, scouts still met each other and traded badges and scarves.

Looming tropical storm Khanun ultimately caused the evacuation of the entire Jamboree site. Over 40000 people were transported away from the site by 1000

buses in less than 14 hours, quite a logistical achievement. The South African contingent of 135 people was fortunate to be accommodated at the Kolon Human Resources Centre about an hour outside Seoul. Although we did not encounter other scouts during the 2 days we spent there, our adult leaders planned programs for our scouts.

43000 Jamboree scouts were reunited at the Seoul World Cup Stadium for the closing ceremony. This was followed by a 2 hour K-Pop concert that the scouts thoroughly enjoyed! We spent our last day in Seoul at the Gwangjang Market before the long journey home.



Although we experienced multiple challenges during the Jamboree and did not enjoy what the brochure promised, our scouts had the time of their lives. They all had a positive experience that was an epic adventure. Our thanks to the Head of Contingent, David van Eyk for the sterling job he did arranging our trip and resolving all the challenges we faced while in South Korea.

To any scout or adult leader that has an opportunity to go to the 26th World Scout Jamboree in Poland in 2027, don't hesitate, start your preparations now. You won't regret it!

Sean Wilbraham - Mbira Troop Assistant Troop Scouter at 25WSJ

first aid in outeniqua



On Saturday 5th August, 14 patrols from across the Outeniqua District on the Garden Route descended once again on the sleepy town of Sedgefield, this time to take part in the annual Outeniqua 1st Aid Competition.

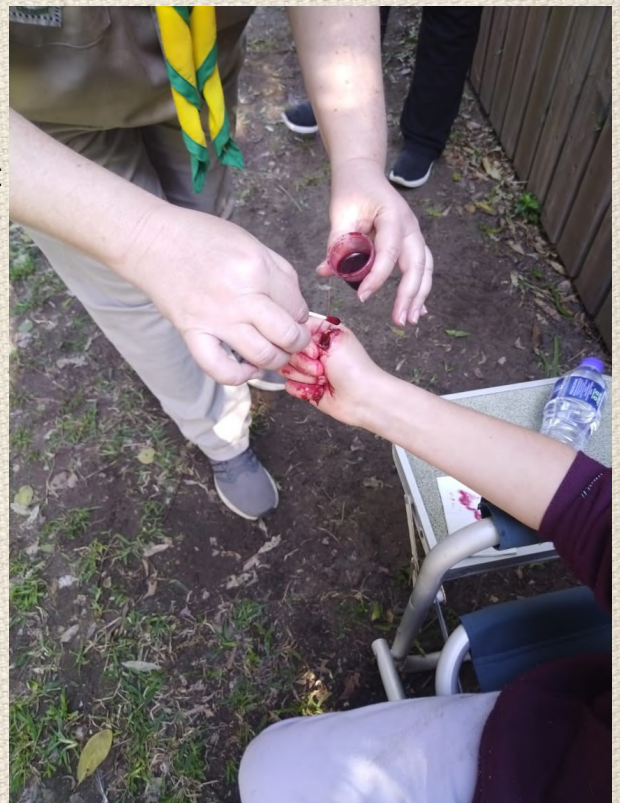
The competition was hosted by the 1st Sedgefield Scout troop, with patients being pulled from both our junior Scouts as well as Gold Wolf cubs. The course took patrols from the 1st Sedgefield Hall around the town to 12 different bases. Each base had a "specific injury" that may be encountered by Scouts either on camp or in everyday life. This year's bases

included everything from skateboarding wipeouts, head wounds from falling branches, burnt hands and this year's favourite, a severed thumb. The entire course was between 4 and 6 km in length and took up to 6 hours depending on route planning and waiting times at bases.



This year we had the returning champions from the 1st George Scout Troop, who sent 1 patrol, 1st George Girl Guides sent 2 patrols, 1st Sedgefield 4 Patrols, 1st Knysna 3 patrols and 1st Plettenberg Bay 4 patrols. Of the 14 patrols only 6 managed to finish all the bases in the allotted time.

The winners this year were the Knysna Swifts. A hearty congratulations to Patrol Leader Kayla along with her patrol Hayden, Aliya and Nathan for scoring a huge 811 points overall. Congratulations also to 1st George for a close 2nd place with 804 points and to the 3rd placed 1st Sedgefield Sandpipers with 791 points.



A huge thank you to all the Scouters from the district who volunteered their time to be judges and in some cases patients, also a thank you to the NSRI Surf Life Saving team that assisted with our CPR and water rescue base. Grant Colloty for writing and programming a totally new digital scoring system for us and to our make-up artist Marion for supplying the latex prosthetics and fake blood.

We hope to see all next year, planning is already underway to streamline things and have even better bases than this year.

Brett Burgell (Phoenix) - 1st Sedgefield Assistant Troop Scouter



1st rocklands in action

1st Rocklands has been busy with a number of activities. The Group:

- Took part in the Bottle Tops and Bread tags collection.

- Donated soup ingredients to a Community leader being Ann Schikker which is close to the Rocklands Den.

- Planted fruit trees in the Fruit forest at SEED Rocklands Primary School.

- "Mix a Match" which involves the wearing odd socks to bring a story across about 'anti bullying.



Annsley Spies - 1st Rocklands Pack Scouter





Bottle top collection



Planting a tree



first aid training



It may be one of the most important life skills we learn at scouts – that's why first aid crops up so often in the calendar with eight courses each year for scouts and leaders. They're always full too – around 200 scout badges awarded and (by October) our adult tally for the year will be about 50 meerkat, cub and scout

leaders – all told from 34 groups.

Our goal is simple: we want to learn loads, be practical and, most importantly, have fun along the way. That's why the weekends are action-packed with a good mix of meaningful learning, practicals and enjoyment.

Amidst the essential training and serious content, we ensure there's plenty of opportunity for practicals and scenarios, friendly competition, prizes, quizzes,



games and a bunch of other stuff.

Our core training team has been growing and puts in huge amounts of time and energy to make it all happen and deserve big kudos for running fun and impactful courses.

If you haven't been on a course yet, we hope we'll see you on one soon.

Jonathan Webb - 1st Claremont Assistant Troop Scouter





1st muizenberg meerkats



Fun was had by the Meerkats from 1st Muizenberg when they got to visit a local recycling sorting facility as part of their Recycling Challenge badge.

They were shown around the large recycling factory, where they got to experience the sorting of the different recyclable materials. Lots of questions were asked by the Meerkats as they learned about

what recycling is and what can be recycled.

Afterwards, the Meerkats got to do their own sorting and thoroughly enjoyed sorting different types and colours of bottle tops. A fun-filled game of who could sort the most cardboard followed. What an enjoyable afternoon for our Meerkats!

With a Scoutcraft theme in mind, what is better than a Kim's game? The Meerkats enthusiastically tested their observation senses by bravely visiting taste and smell stations, followed by a blindfolded texture guessing game.

Spring may not have officially sprung, but that did not deter our mob from their Tie Dye activity, traditionally held on the first meeting in September. The Meerkats are never reluctant to put their creativity to the test, and the final product proved that the paint-stained hands were definitely worth it.

Marihett Bredenkamp (Rafiki) - 1st Muizenberg Den Scouter





1st muizenberg bottle tops



At 1st Muizenberg, we love Mandela Day and all that it stands for. This year we decided to take on the challenge issued by SCOUTS South Africa to collect bottle tops and bread tags for Wheelchairs and the Sweetheart Foundation. We decided to make it our mission as a Group to collectively collect enough bottle tops and/ or bread tags for a wheelchair. No easy feat!

To accomplish our mission, we challenged our Meerkats, Cubs, Scouts, and Rovers to collect as many bottle tops and bread tags as they could, both within their homes and through engaging with the community. We received an overwhelming response from the community, which played a crucial role in the success of our collection. Joons, a local restaurant, generously offered to be a drop-off point for community collections which was really helpful.

The task of repacking the bottle tops and bread tags for transport presented an enormous challenge due to our collection having grown to over 500kg of plastic. Rovers, Scouts, Cubs, Meerkats, Scouters and parents alike actively participated in sorting and double bagging the bottle tops and bread tags, during and between Meetings. It took hours, but it was wonderful to witness the Group come together for such a worthy cause.



Beyond the tangible impact on the Organisations being supported, the challenge provided an opportunity for our Youth to develop crucial skills and embrace essential values. They gained awareness of these important Organisations in the community and learned how simple actions can significantly impact someone's life. They also experienced the power of unity and the potential of a community coming together for a common cause.

I am very proud of the huge effort the Group as a whole put into this challenge. Through passion, perseverance, and dedication, we managed to collect 518kg of bottle tops and 5kg of bread tags.

Thanks to Scouts South Africa for this excellent Challenge and congratulations to all the Groups who participated in this exceptional and inspiring event. We eagerly



await next year's challenge, which is bound to make an even bigger impact.

Angela Lee-Wright - 1st Muizenberg Scout Group Leader



scouting in schools news

Hikes

Scouts from schools in Khayelitsha joined Scouting in Schools on a hike on Lions Head. 1st Durbanville scouts and Western Cape Rovers helped lead one of the hikes. Umthawelanga, Luleka, Ikhwezi, Lesizwe, Sobambisana, Encotsheni, Rocklands, Berman and Montagu Drive Primary Schools took part. These event are facilitated by our partners and funders to allow scouts to hike in our mountains.

A SANParks - Table Mountain National Park student intern joined one of the parties and explained the importance of preserving our National Parks.



Mid Year George Training

Mid year training in George was successful!



UWC Year Beyond Conference

Excitement filled the air at GoBeyond: Shape your future conference held at the Jakes Gerwel Hall at The University of the Western Cape.

YeBoneers embarked on a transformative 3-day journey.



Garden Route Biosphere attendance

Seven YeBoneers hailing from Cape Town, Gqeberha and George were selected to attend a 2 day Youth Engagement Workshop organised by the Garden Route Biosphere Reserve.



Ahmad Solomon - Scouting in Schools Project Leader

meerkat scouts go for games



WC Meerkat Scouters are fortunate to be able to get together once a year to upskill on important topics. This year, the Skills Day focused on Games. At Meerkats, Scouters are often stumped for appropriate Games that release energy and might yet tie in with the theme of the meeting. Meetings are half as long as a Cub meeting (only 45 or 60 min), so there is much less time to just mess around.

Twenty eager Scouters gathered for an excellent lunch, talking 19 to the dozen, and checking out the Den Displays. What

amazing innovation! After a short introduction, the group settled down to workshop games according to a given framework. There were surprising results and everyone learnt something new. The Games will go up on Scouts Wiki, once a slight rearrangement of the structure has been made.

The day ended with a plenary discussion on how to get and retain adult leaders. Some excellent decisions were made, most of which each group can implement on their own. We look forward to the next Skills Day in 2024.



Judith Bishop - Regional Team Coordinator Meerkats



appleton campsite



Appleton was once a mobile radar station used by the Special Signal Service during World War 2 on the top of Signal Hill. After which it was secured for the Scouts in 1946 and was named after John Appleton who played a vital role in its creation as a Sea Point District Campsite.

The campsite, still being loved and cared for to this day by the Scouts, is currently seeing improvements

with its previous and current warden crews who are giving the youth a chance to do service and to continue learning within the movement. Many courses have been run from the campsite, thanks in part to its closeness to many Scout Troops and the facilities available, such as WiFi, bunk house, open field and parade ground, lecture hall, etc. Its position on Signal Hill is very advantageous for any scout wanting to do their First Class advancements with it situated close to Lions Head and Table Mountain, with many Scouts resting at Appleton after a day hike over Table Mountain and attempting Lions Head the following day.

Scouting in Schools (SiS) have been making full use of Appleton to start and end their hikes on which they take children from less advantaged or less privileged areas on hikes up and around Signal Hill/Lions Head to provide a better and more stimulating environment for these children to experience.



A constant effort is being made to improve the facilities and atmosphere of all campers at Appleton by its warden crew, which is always welcome to volunteers to work on projects, making sure Appleton is better each time you visit. Appleton's position facing Sea Point to the left and its beautiful sunsets to the city bowl on the right, who wouldn't want to stay the night up at Appleton.

Simon Pio - Appleton Warden

gordon's shield

The Gordon's Shield was once again held at Hawequas Scout Adventure Centre and is a competition that takes the form of a standing camp and tests a Patrol skills in maintaining good camping skills along with scoutcraft skills.

It rained on Saturday so made things slightly more challenging than usual for Scouts to get their kit to their allocated campsites, pitch tents and get organised.

The theme was "Directors Cut" and as a consequence many photos were taken and I understand that a film will be released in the next few weeks so watch out for this.



There was a large entry of patrols and there were 330 scouts in camp. In terms of numbers, the Gordon's Shield along with all the other regional competitions have seen an increase in attendance in the last decade.

Congratulations to 3rd Pinelands for winning the Gordon's Shield, followed by 1st Claremont in second place and 1st Durbanville in third place.



A huge congratulations to Joseph Hansen and Daniel le Jeune for organising the competition. It is most pleasing to see younger Scouters volunteering to run Regional events.

Many thanks to all the judges who braved the elements on a cold winter's weekend.

Nigel Forshaw - Editor Western Cape Scouter



gordon's shield





POSITION	TEAM NO	TEAM NAME	MARK
1	13	3rd Pinelands A	483
2	3	1st Claremont A	475
3	46	1st Durbanville A	473
4	45	1st Bergvliet A	466
5	12	2nd Bergvliet A	464
6	6	6th Rondebosch A	450
7	23	1st Pinelands A	446
8	9	2nd Fish Hoek A	439
9	35	1st Claremont B	436
10	34	1st Muizenberg A	430
11	20	9th/16th Cape Town A	425
12	42	Fish Hoek Rangers A	416
13	37	1st Durbanville B	410
14	47	1st Camps Bay A	394
15	32	1st Hermanus A	393
16	36	4th Claremont Fernwood A	385
17	38	1st Fish Hoek A	383
18	14	1st Table View A	372
19	40	1st Claremont/Hout Bay A	371
20	16	2nd Hout Bay B	370
21	10	1st Somerset West B	361
22	31	2nd Plumstead A	357
23	29	1st Belvedere A	350
23	1	1st Muizenberg B	350
25	43	1st Meadowridge A	348
26	24	1st Strand A	343
27	18	1st Belvedere B	342
28	27	2nd Kenridge A	334
29	39	Durbanville Kraaifontein (DK) A	324
30	49	1st Ottery A	319
31	11	2nd Plumstead B	310
32	26	1st Somerset West A	306
33	41	1st Blaauwberg A	300
34	25	1st Fictreton A	298
35	19	1st Gordons Bay A	292
36	28	1st Milnerton A	289
36	8	1st Monte Vista A	289
38	15	6th Rondebosch B	284
39	33	1st Pinelands B	283
40	7	Fish Hoek Guides & Rangers A	275
41	4	1st Stellenbosch A	272
42	22	1st Kirstenhof A	259
43	17	1st Bothasig A	257
44	48	1st Hermanus B	219
44	30	1st Rosebank Air A	219



hawequas terraces' new block



When I started full time at Hawequas in 2013, the Terraces were overgrown, with a skeleton of a toilet block. Drakenstein Municipality would not give us permission to finish off the building until all plans for Hawequas were submitted and approved.

We thought this would take a few of months. It didn't. We had a costing done to finish the block off, bought Enviro self composting toilets. The figure to complete the building

in 2014 was R160,000. In 2023 the finished cost was R658,000. Building supply costs and labour to build has escalated hugely!



Final approval was granted in November 2022 – that's a whole new book that can be written but building permissions were now in place.

Construction started and ex scout Julian De La Hunt donated 21,000 bricks. Other donations of funds or items needed were gratefully received from supporters of Hawequas



Our never say no Aussie organised a building team and we started breaking down walls and digging foundations.

At this stage "Murphy" paid his first visit and unseasonal rains flooded the site, and so the project continued with "Murphy" visiting uninvited many times.

The building is now finished and commissioned – with the Terraces now becoming the camp sites of choice.

This building is a great addition to Hawequas. Please follow the instructions on how to use the Enviro toilets.

We are indeed fortunate to have people of the calibre of Aussie, who has saved us thousands by his generosity, his company trucks running back and forth, not to mention cement mixers, compactors and vibrators at no cost to Hawequas.

Many of our neighbours also helped out with the lone of generators etc. Paddy's enthusiasm and direction pulled us through.

Thank you to all!

Kuba Miszewski - Hawequas Manager



gilwell reunion



The Gilwell Reunion for 2023 had a range of fun and interesting morning activities on offer, from which our participants could choose to start their Reunion. The choices were a beer tasting at Jack Black, a tour of a private naval museum by the curator and owner, retired Admiral Arne Söderlund, and an interactive experience with the Volunteer Wildfire Services. The party visiting the Naval Museum were unanimous in their feedback that the tour was an incredible experience, and needed at least a full day to do the tour justice.

The VWS experience was by far the best attended, with at least 20 Wood Badge holders learning how to beat flames with the beaters, and learned a great deal about fire behaviour and the operation of the skid unit (a 4x4 bakkie filled with useful equipment and a 600-liter water tank).

The Reunion itself was held at the 1st Claremont Hall where a High Tea was hosted-including some special teas, a coffee Kombi with delicious barrista-made coffees, and a bespoke Gilwell Reunion cake baked for the day. Guest speakers included the VWS (Andrea Schnettler-Niddrie was the speaker, incidentally also the daughter-in-law of Peter Niddrie), as well as a presentation on the Kander100 experience at Kandersteg by Andrew Campbell (via video link from Gauteng), and David van Eyk as contingent leader of the SA delegation to the Jamboree in South Korea.



Nimmy Abrahams gave his Regional Address, presented Craig Burchell-Burger with his 4th bead (Leader Trainer warrant) and conducted the Gilwell Countdown (Kuba Mizweski, Wood Badge 1976, was the last Wood Badger standing). A very enjoyable day all in all, despite the weather!

Peter Otzen - Regional Team Coordinator Adult Training



springbok service project

On the 10 July 2023 Kaiyen Govender of 1st Camps bay started his community service project at the Philippi Children's Centre. His service project was primarily to re-build and plant the schools vegetable garden, clean the school walls and re-paint the schools jungle gyms.



In the middle of the bitterly cold and rainy Cape winter the scouts of 1st Camps Bay and one from 3rd Pinelands made the trip daily to Philippi to start promptly at 8am.

After lots of hard work and toil the school contacted Kaiyen on the 13 September with the good news that they had harvested their first crop of fresh spinach, parsley and turnips which was already in the kitchen being cut up for the preparation of fresh soup for the children.

Well done to these scouts for their determination and hard work on this worthy cause and making a difference to the lives of the children of this area so that they can get a daily warm meal and have a sustainable food source.

Puven Govender - 1st Camps Bay Scout Group Leader



whoosh and bang!

The wet weather made fools of us all term. We frequently had to switch to Plan B or postpone events altogether. The same was true all over the Region, with the first of our Meerkat District Events being planned in Kanonkop, Two Oceans and Liesbeek. Table View squeaked theirs in on a blustery but dry day. We are all very glad that WC will be camping in the fourth term, although the camps held in the other provinces looked wonderful.

Looking back, though, 1st Claremont accomplished a lot, grabbing every bit of outdoor activity time we could. Among many other activities, games and songs, we completed the Proudly South African badge with a grand soccer match and a lusty singing of the National Anthem (no backing track for us); the Adventure badge, where learning to use a compass and navigate to the hidden treasure is always a hit; and finally the Scientist badge when things go whoosh and bang, change colours and your hair stands on end!





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My grateful thanks to my Scouter team whose most common word is "sure" as we ducked and dived through the changes, and to so many of the parents who handled bases or Burrows when asked.

Judith Bishop - 1st Claremont Den Scouter



survival badge course



This year 18 Scouters and 31 Senior Scouts partook in Survival Interest 2023.

Theory was learnt on the first weekend by doing a short hike through the Constantia greenbelt and learning content necessary for survival at different bases. This involved live snakes and gutting fish.

During the practical survival simulation weekend mostly at Hawequas Scout Adventure Centre, Scouts were dropped off at a point and navigated their way to Hawequas.

Upon arrival their survival gear was checked, shelters were built and rations keenly consumed.

At day break our survivors started building solar stills, set up snares and cooked some porridge without the aid of a pot or matches.

During the day they navigated without a compass and tasted / learnt about some edible plants in the Western Cape. Fish was cooked in cabbage leaves.



Survivors attended a food auction, attempted plenty of methods to signal for help and pondered over different preventative methods and recognising symptoms of some diseases caused when living with nature. Chicken was cooked over glowing embers but not before attending a night hike identifying poisonous snakes of the Western Cape. No compasses were allowed.

The last day started with some eggs, mostly sunny side up.

Games were played involving knives, balloons, puzzles and fire.

All in all a great time was had and everyone survived Survival Interest 2023!

We feel confident that Scouts will be able to apply knowledge gained if stuck in a similar situation in a less controlled environment.

Many thanks to our course director Rebecca Sparg and her team.

Orsella Schneeberger - 1st Hermanus Assistant Troop Scouter





A group comprising 31 scouts embarked upon the challenge presented by the Survival Interest Badge course. This comprehensive program commenced with a preparatory training day, scheduled two weeks prior to the adventure weekend. The purpose of this training is to equip the scouts with essential skills, anticipating the various challenges they might encounter during the upcoming expedition. These challenges encompass a range of survival techniques, including but not limited to cooking without utensils, igniting fires sans matches or lighters, identifying snakes, familiarizing themselves with edible flora, and more.

During the adventure weekend itself, the scouts assumed the responsibility of preparing their own sustenance, relying on fires they had to kindle themselves. This task proved to be a formidable undertaking, as they were required to prepare meals without the aid of conventional cookware. Additionally, the weekend provided them with the opportunity to demonstrate their proficiency in navigation devoid of compasses, mastering trapping and snaring techniques, ensuring water purification, and crafting shelters in which they resided throughout the course's duration.

In tandem with these endeavours, the scouts actively engaged in various "survivor" themed challenges, encompassing fire-making, obstacle courses, puzzles, and the quest for the coveted "immunity bracelets" within their respective patrols.

In conclusion, the adventure weekend undeniably lived up to its name, subjecting scouts to rigorous trials. To culminate their weekend, they were treated to the renowned survival banquet.



Melissa Schmidt - Durbanville Kraaifontein Troop Leader

french & south african rovers

Between the 7th of August and the 6th of September, six French Rovers visited Cape Town to take part in two community service projects and embrace and explore the sites and landscapes of the area.



One of these projects was collaborated on with 6th Rondebosch Rover Crew to support Ladles of Love, a local organisation dedicated to combatting food insecurity.

Together, the French and 6th Rondebosch Rovers assisted at the soup kitchen, the community garden, and the packaging warehouse aid Ladles of Love in their mission. To cap this off, we ran our own soup kitchen for a day which saw us make

soup and bread for those less fortunate in the Rondebosch area. We managed to make 13 loaves of peanut butter and jam sandwiches as well as 57 tubs of soup which we distributed in Rondebosch and Observatory.

The second project which the French Rovers under took, saw them dedicated 2 weeks of their time to assist at the Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB) bird sanctuary.



Here, they played an important role in the rehabilitation and preservation of Cape Town's bird life which they enjoyed very much.

This exchange however, was more than about service alone. The 6th Rondebosch Rover Crew, who facilitated the French Rovers time in Cape Town, planned a number of joint activities with them to showcase what Cape Town has to offer. We did an overnight hike to the Scout Hut on Table Mountain, a hike and wine tasting in Stellenbosch, a day trip to Boulders Beach and Simons Town, and several social evenings together to share our stories and local culture.

In addition to this, the French Rovers attended the Regional Rover Quiz night hosted by Table Bay Rover Crew so they got to meet some of the other Rovers in the Region.



6th Rondebosch Rovers would like to thank the French Rovers for leaving a lasting impact on the Cape Town community. The projects that they undertook made a difference to those they served and they certainly lived up to the Rover motto of 'Service'.

This visit was not only about the amazing work accomplished, but it was also about the friendships made.

These memories and shared experiences will be cherished for years to come and we hope that this collaboration can continue between French and South African Scouts. The exchange between 6th Rondebosch and the French Rovers is a testament to the spirit of service that unites Scouts and Rovers worldwide.

The French Rovers visit to Cape Town reminds us that through service and friendship, we can all leave the world a better place than we found it.

If you would like to see more about some of the adventures of the French Rovers, you can check them out on Instagram ([s_compachydermes](#)).

Dylan Ribbans - 6th Rondebosch Rover Crew Chairperson

pioneering badge course



This year's Pioneer Interest badge ran over two weekends in August and September, and was a massive success despite the weather trying its best to disrupt proceedings. We had 42 scouts attending, with 39 of them being awarded the badge.

This course ran quite differently from previous Pioneer courses. Firstly, being held in winter made it quite a soggy one. Secondly, we tried out a new set of constructions, including the dreaded Tensegrity Structure. This is a structure that is self-tensioning, and instead of being help upright with poles, uses forces of traction and compression to keep the upper structure in place.



These structures are fairly simple to build, but the complexity arises in raising it and properly tensioning the system.

Besides this, scouts also built an Abington Spring bridge across the Hawequas dam, an Aerial runway, a drawbridge, roman ballista, stilt tower and Hourglass tower.



Lastly, this course marks the first course in over 10 years not to feature a written test as part of the programme. Scouting is built upon the method of "learning by doing", and by incorporating a testing method that was personalised and better in line with the scout method, we saw absolutely no failures in the more theoretical areas of the course.

I would like to congratulate all the scouts for their intense efforts, including building and deconstructing in the rain, as well as the positive attitude they all had towards the challenges they faced. I look forward to potentially seeing some

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Daniel le Jeune - 1st Claremont Troop Scouter and Course Leader

springbok scouts



Logan Washer
1st Durbanville



Gabriella Willemse
2nd Bergvliet



Saskia van Otterlo
1st Muizenberg



Hudson Sayers
2nd Fish Hoek

We congratulate our very latest
Springbok Scouts



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